



Hines
Center of Excellence
Director: Kevin B. Weiss, MD, MPH, MS
Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2008

The COE for Management of Complex Chronic Care (CMC3) is located at Hines VA Hospital (HVAH) in Hines, Illinois.

Kevin Weiss, MD, MPH served as the Principal Investigator of the COE for the past seven years, and resigned in December 2007 to become CEO and President of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). Frances Weaver, PhD was asked to serve as Acting PI and Todd Lee, PhD was named Acting Co-PI of CMC3. A search committee was formed, lead by Dale Gerding, MD, ACOS of Hines VA Research Service. There were several applicants who applied for the position, three of which were invited for interviews with the search committee. Dr. Weaver was recommended by the Committee to be named Center PI, and this recommendation has been forwarded to the Director, HSR&D CO for approval.

CMC3 continues to develop its focus on management of complex chronic care. Center investigators have ongoing or planned projects to address a number of issues related to complexity such as: 1) Work by Saul Weiner and colleagues to (a) document when and why providers miss important patient specific contextual information that result in medical errors; and (b) develop methods to teach providers to identify and incorporate contextual factors when making treatment decisions. This has led to a second grant (under review) that consists of an education intervention to train physicians to consistently incorporate contextual factors in medical decision making. As a spin-off of this work, Dr. Weiner is working with the Jesse Brown VA to establish a quality assurance program using unannounced standardized patients to monitor providers and support staff. The project has involved VA OI&T in developing a process for creating simulated medical records that are not transmitted to national databases; 2) Work by Todd Lee and colleagues to understand how management of care is affected when patients have multiple chronic conditions in which guideline-recommended care may conflict. Specifically, Dr. Lee's team has an approved IIR to understand the impact of treating co-existing chronic conditions among veterans by providing information on the short-term and long-term outcomes of patients with co-occurring COPD, diabetes, hypertension and IHD; and 3) The research efforts of Kevin Stroupe, Bridget Smith and others, designed to better understand continuity of care across health care systems, including VA and Medicare.

Investigators in CMC3 have a number of national leadership roles within VA (steering committees, SMRB), and in the larger research community (e.g., American Cancer Society, NIH, Society for Behavioral Medicine, Association of Spinal Cord Injury, Psychologists and Social Workers).

CMC3 continues to serve as a leader in health services research in the greater Chicago area. We continue strong affiliations with Northwestern University through the Institute for Healthcare Studies and with the University of Illinois, Chicago through the School of Medicine and the Center for Health Policy. Loyola University, our closest affiliate, has reaffirmed its interest in developing a health services research presence

within the medical and nursing schools and has agreed to jointly support two HSR faculty with Hines VA.

We continue to train and mentor young investigators through our Office of Academic Affairs post-doctoral programs for PhDs, MDs, and PhD nurses. We hope to have a new career development awardee starting in FY09 and currently have two career scientist awardees (Drs. Hynes & Weaver). The Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) QUERI program's research center led by Dr. Weaver is examining issues related to pressure ulcers, obesity, new injuries from OEF/OIF, smoking cessation, and the use of MyHealtheVet in SCI.

